



Barton Church of England (VA) Primary School

Governors' Newsletter

Issue 25: Summer 2023

Governors are delighted to celebrate the success of our Year 6 cohort in their Key Stage 2 SATS (Standard Assessment Tests). The progress made by this group over the last year has been impressive, and we congratulate the pupils, families, the Owl Class Team and all school staff and community who have contributed to their school journey. We wish you well in your transition to secondary school, Year 6!

This term we have completed our stakeholder consultation on our new Three Year Strategic Plan, consulting with staff, governors, parents and finally groups of Key Stage 2 pupils on the draft Plan. We have been pleased to incorporate input and ideas from all stakeholder groups and thank those of you who took part in the consultation process. The final Plan is attached with this newsletter and will be a vital document over the next period in informing school improvement and operational plans and ensuring staff and governors remain focused on agreed, strategic goals for the benefit of our pupils and community.

The whole-school Courageous Advocacy project has continued this term and governors were pleased to meet with some groups of pupils to hear their thoughts on the project. The pupils spoke eloquently and thoughtfully and demonstrated a deep understanding of the climate issues facing us all. They also showed great empathy in discussing a recent visit to East Anglia's Children's Hospice, which has inspired a number of pupils to undertake their own fundraising activities to support that charity and to raise funds for books and other school resources. We are extremely proud of them all.

We wrote to you earlier this term highlighting the financial pressures that we are facing. We are so grateful for the responses we have received so far in offers of practical help, resources and donations. We ask that you continue to consider how you can support the school, and will welcome your ideas over the coming year.

Finally, we congratulate the new staff team on an extremely successful year. After a comprehensive induction, a supportive and committed team has developed and we look forward to working with a stable and dedicated staff group over the coming year.

The governors welcome comments about what we do and what we could be doing better. If you would like to contact us, please do so through the school office or email:

chair@barton.cambs.sch.uk or clerk@barton.cambs.sch.uk

Report from Full Governing Body (FGB)



*Caroline Parsons is the Chair of Governors.
Caroline is a Co-Opted Governor.*

Summer 2023

This term in their FGB meetings the governors have raised standards by:

- finalising the Three Year Strategic Plan with input from governors, staff, parents and pupils in order to ensure that all stakeholders are represented and are able to contribute to the direction of the school

- approving the budget for 2023-24 as recommended by the Resources Committee to ensure that school is fully staffed and resourced to meet the needs of all pupils and provide a high-level, quality learning experience
- remaining abreast of developments with the school catering provision, agreeing and authorising termination of the previous catering contract and new contracts for the proposed in-house provision, to ensure we meet our legal obligations to provide free school meals and offer a healthy meal to the whole school community
- continuing to monitor the wellbeing of the Headteacher, staff and pupils to ensure that the support that is provided is effective and tailored to individual needs
- undertaking consultations with staff, parents and pupils and analysing the results to ensure the voices of school stakeholders are heard
- reviewing our monitoring strategy with the intent that next year governor visits will connect directly with objectives from the new Strategic Plan to ensure continued clarity of focus and direction
- reviewing the composition of the governing body and looking at succession planning in order to fill current and future vacancies and seek to ensure that there is a mix of skills, experience and diversity within the group
- discussing the next steps in our academisation research ahead of a proposed visit from the Diocese of Ely to address school-specific concerns

Report from the Resources Committee



Ross Stewart is Chair of the Resources Committee. Ross is a Parent Governor.

This term in their Resources Committee meetings the governors have raised standards by:

- interrogating and approving the budget to ensure that Barton is allocating its resources in the most effective way possible to ensure that staffing levels, the curriculum and school environment provide the best possible education to pupils
- receiving and examining reports on premises and contracts to ensure that funds are allocated appropriately
- welcoming the generosity of parents and the wider community in donating their time and/or resources to specific projects to ensure that steps are taken to reduce pressure on the school budget where possible
- reviewing the class structure and staffing plan for 2023/24 to ensure that school is adequately resourced and that pupils' needs will be met
- reviewing how Sports Premium and tutoring funding has been spent to ensure that monies have been directed appropriately and have had a positive impact on pupils' learning

Report from the Standards Committee



*Cathy Martin is Chair of the Standards Committee and Vice-Chair of Governors.
Cathy is a Foundation Governor.*

This term in their Standards Committee meetings the governors have raised standards by:

- evaluating data relating to attainment and progress for the whole academic year to ensure that pupils are receiving high quality teaching
- discussing the hugely positive impact that 'Little Wandle', the new scheme to teach phonics, has had on improving reading, and considering whether introducing a spelling package could be of similar benefit to pupils in the future
- reviewing the reports from the latest governor visits and planning how to follow up the recommendations to ensure a sustained focus on continuous improvement
- incorporating the pupil, staff and parent consultation feedback into the strategic plan to ensure that all stakeholder voices are heard and valued
- reviewing policies relating to progress and attainment and pupils' wellbeing to ensure that the best experience is provided for the pupils in our care
- reviewing the schools' development plans and recognising the hard work of the Headteacher and staff in achieving the school's priorities for the year and ensuring that

these foundations can be built on in successive years

- acknowledging the continuing impact that Covid and lack of resources has had on pupils, and agreeing strategies to ensure that steps are taken to combat these
- recognising the value of educational visits and the importance of ensuring access for all pupils.
- discussing some of the measures contained within the new Keeping Children Safe in Education legislation, including online filtering and monitoring software, to ensure the continued safety and wellbeing of all pupils

Foundation Governor – Vacancies

We are seeking to appoint two Foundation Governors. In addition to playing a vital part in setting the vision and strategic direction for the school, and a key role in ensuring financial and educational accountability, Foundation Governors have a further responsibility in promoting the school's religious character and are an active link between the Church and school.

If you are able to offer this and are interested in becoming a governor at Barton, please contact Caroline Parsons at chair@barton.cambs.sch.uk